

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 14, 2006 in which claims 1-9, 11, 13-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 29-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 47-58 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1, 22, 23, 34, and 39 are amended and claims 12, 15-19, 21, 28-31, 33, 36, 43, 45, and 47-53 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12, 23, 28, 36, and 43 contain allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has: amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 12; amended independent claim 22 to include the subject matter of claim 28; amended independent claim 34 to include the subject matter of claim 36; amended independent claim 39 to include the subject matter of claim 43; and converted claim 23 to independent format. Accordingly, independent claim 1 (and corresponding dependent claims 2-9, 11, and 13-14), independent claim 22 (and corresponding dependent claims 24-26 and 54-55), independent claim 23, independent claim 34 (and corresponding dependent claims 35, 37-38, and 56-57), and independent claim 39 (and corresponding dependent claims 41-42, 44, and 58) are allowable. Applicant has cancelled the other claims in the application without prejudice.

Applicant has not specifically addressed the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 set forth in pages 2-4 of the Office Action because Applicant has amended the claims as necessary to obtain timely issuance of a patent containing claims reciting subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Applicant wishes to make it unmistakably clear that Applicant does not agree to or acquiesce in the rejections of the claims set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

II. Conclusion

Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 14, 22-26, 34, 35, 37-39, 41, 42, 44, and 54-58 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 22, 23, 34, and 39 have amended and claims 12, 15-19, 21, 28-

31, 33, 36, 43, 45, and 47-53 have been cancelled. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

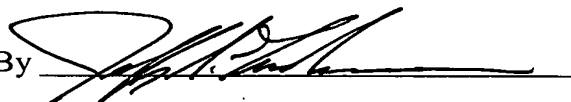
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7/12/06

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